

April 5, 2006

I am writing to express my concern regarding Wal-Mart's desire to obtain a banking charter. I am an attorney in a very small town, and I have seen the effect that Wal-Mart can have on a community. Too many small businesses cannot succeed in a market dominated by Wal-Mart. In fact, I have noticed that most of the new businesses locating in my area are banks. If Wal-Mart is allowed to expand into banking, I fear that the small community banks will be unable to compete with the retail giant. In addition, Wal-Mart is already the largest corporation in the world, and its expansion into banking would create an even more dangerous concentration of commercial and financial power in one entity, not dissimilar to the power that the oil companies currently wield. Thank you for considering these factors as you make your decision.

Karen Roper